Mergers of MNCs

1439. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that in the liberalised regime, there have been takeovers and mergers by the foreign multinationals and domestic companies, leading to creation of monopolistic condition, cartelization etc;

(b) if so, the deails of such takeovers and mergers, the name of the companies, their product profiles, market shares before and afer takeovers and mergers and financial stakes before and after mergers, during the past three years; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the creation of monopolistic|oligopolistic conditions and formation of cartels in the liberalised regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) After the amendment of the MRTP Act on 27.9.1991, complaints have been received relating to amalgamation of Tata Oil Mills Company Ltd. with Hindustan Lever and Lipton India Ltd. with Brooke Bond India Ltd. In the first case the Honourable MRTP Commission has already instituted an enquiry and the matter is sub-judice before the Commission. In the second case, the Honourable Commission has referred the matter to Director General (Investigation and Registration) for preliminary investigation.

Family Courts in States

1440. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has expressed concern about non-functionjng of family courts in the States;

(b) if so, the deails thereof;

(c) whether any directive has been issued by Government to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Women is of the view that family courts set up in the States have not been functioning properly and the States which have not so far set up family courts should do so both at the State and District levels without any further delay. The Commission is also of the view that more and more women lawyers should be appointed as Judges of the family courts.

With regard to setting up of family courts, the States|UTs (which have not so far set up family courts) have been requested to take suitable steps in this regard.

Investigations against MNCs by DGIR

1441. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 469 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Director General Investigation and Registration had since completed the investigation in regard to certain companies, like Colgate India Ltd., etc.; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The preliminary investigations in respect of M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. and M|s. Ponds India Ltd. have since been completed and reports thereof submitted to Honourable MRTP Commission. The cases are therefore sub-judge before the Commission.

Regarding M/s. Colgate Palmolive India Ltd., DG (I&R) has called for certain information from the company

which is still awaited. Preliminary Investigation Report thereon will be finalised by DG(I&R) as soon as the required information is received from the company.

Local aid scheme in Gujarat

1442. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited from the Legal Aid Scheme in Gujarat during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the funds provided to the State under the Scheme during the year 1993-94 have fully been utilised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) On the basis of the information provided by the Gujarat State Legal Aid & Advice Board, 56,456 persons during 1993-94 and 13,392 persons in 1994 (till the end of October 1994), have benefited in the State of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) A total grant-in-aid of Rs. 1.25 lakhs was released to the State of Gujarat during 1993-94 out of which accounts for utilisation of Rs. 1.10 lakh have been rendered so far.

Amendment in Anti-Defection Law

1443. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court had taken a decision on the 12th November, 1991 to the effect that the decision of the Presiding Officer under the Anti-Defection Law could be subjected to judicial review and would not be final;

(b) whether Government have since examined the decision with a view to bring forward amendment to the Anti-Defection Law and if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the specific reasons for not completing the examination; and

(c) by when an amendment is proposed to be moved in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have examined the judgement of the Supreme Court but it has not yet decided on the formulation of the appellate authority that may hear appeals against the decisions of the Presiding Officers under the Anti-defection law.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the time by which an amendment would be moved in the Parliament.

निवृत्त न्यायाधीशों/स्वैच्छिक संगठनों से सहयोग के संबंध में नीति

1444. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 1 नवंबर, 1994 के "जनसत्ता" में "लोकहित की आज अधिक आवश्यकता है" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा निर्धन और आम लोगों द्वारा लोकहित याचिका के उद्देश्य के लिए लिखे गए पत्रों और रिपोर्टों पर त्वरित कार्यवाही को सुनिश्चित करने और लोकहित वाद को अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए कोई नीति बनाई जा रही है

(ग) क्या न्यायपालिका के अतिरिक्त सेवा-निवृत्त न्यायाधीशों और स्वैच्छिक संगठनों से सहयोग प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई नीति बनाई गई है ताकि लोकहित वाद प्रभावी बन सके ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?